

# Renée Ward

Guest Speaker

# Age

Somewhere during the Baby Boom era  
(1946 – 1964)

# Work

Principal, **The Forward Group**, a consulting company

Principal, **forwardGmedia**, a web publisher

Founder, **Teens4Hire**<sup>®</sup>, **Seniors4Hire**<sup>®</sup>

& other niche community sites.

# Role

I raise money, grow revenues, and teach.

I am an advocate for the Alpha and Omega of the American workforce (Teens and Seniors).

As the Principal and Founder of the enterprises, I am the conductor of my own fate.

# The Early Years

I was born in New York City and lived there until I went off to college.



I am the youngest of four children  
and the only girl.

I felt a little bit like Cinderella.



# High School



Established in 1869 as "The Female Normal and High School," it was a private school to prepare young women to become teachers.

# High School

- **Hunter College High School.** (The same high school as one of our present U.S. Supreme Court Justices.)
- **All girls**, grades 7-12, and less than 125 students per grade.
- Competitive IQ and entrance exam
- It's **6.6% admissions rate**, not considering the many students denied the chance to take the exam because they did not meet the state exam requirements, making it harder to admit into Hunter than it is to admit into Harvard which has an admissions rate of about 8%, makes Hunter **one of the most selective high schools in the nation.**



# High School

## LOVED IT!

- **Library**
- Volley ball
- **Drama/Theater**
- Poetry
- Newspaper
- Student body  
Secretary-Treasurer
- **Drummer**

## HATED IT!

- Hannah Snepvangers,  
French Teacher
- Competitiveness

# High School

## JOBS WORKED

Library

Community service—voter registration

**Summer Camp Teacher's Aide**

Summer Program Executive Director

Poetic Storytelling & Drumming

Newscaster

**My mom's assistant at the Teamsters Union**

# High School

## Fondest Memories

- Performance Group in Dramatics
- Salutatorian
- Awards:
  - Who's Who in American Teenagers
  - Grace B. Beach (Dramatics)
  - Service to Library

## Adversity to Overcome

- Lack of cultural diversity
- Competitiveness
- Shyness
- **Self-esteem**
- Hannah Snepvangers

# Pre-College



Off to Japan  
(my graduation gift)



## Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

- JOBS

- Library
- Radio DJ
- Black Folks Theater
- **Investigative Reporter**

- FAVORITE CLASSES

- No memory

- HATED CLASSES

- The way Black History was taught.

# College



## University of Southern CA

Los Angeles, CA

- JOBS

- Contributing Reporter/Writer
- Advertising Copywriter
- Jewelry Buyer
- Producer/Director

- FAVORITE CLASSES

- Anything David Saltzman taught

- HATED CLASSES

- Creative Writing, the teacher used the term "irregardless" and when I corrected her decided to give me my only B.

# College

## **Fondest Memories**

- Bringing theater to the community and to the prison population.
- My work as a journalist.

## **Adversities to Overcome**

- Social skills—awkward coming from an all girls school.

Career Path

Sales



# Career Path

# **Worst Job**

The “Avi” Experience



# Career Challenges

## Woman in a Man's World

I like being a woman, even  
in a man's world. After all,  
men can't wear dresses,  
but we can wear the pants.



**Whitney Houston**

American Musical artist

*QuoteHD.com*

(1963-2012)

# Career Challenges

## Office Politics



# Career Challenges

## Assumptions

**Making assumptions  
simply means believing  
things are a certain  
way with little or no  
evidence that shows  
you are correct, and  
you can see at once  
how this can lead to  
terrible trouble.**

- Lemony Snicket

# Career Compensation

**NO CAP ON EARNINGS**

*“We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit.”*

• • •

--Robert H. Shaffer

# Current Role

## History

- Investor and Founder of Teens4Hire.org
- Registered Domain 10/2001 Online 2/2002

## Size

- The site reaches more than 3 million young adults per year
- Small staff of volunteers

## Location

- I'm based in Huntington Beach, CA
- The site is nationwide

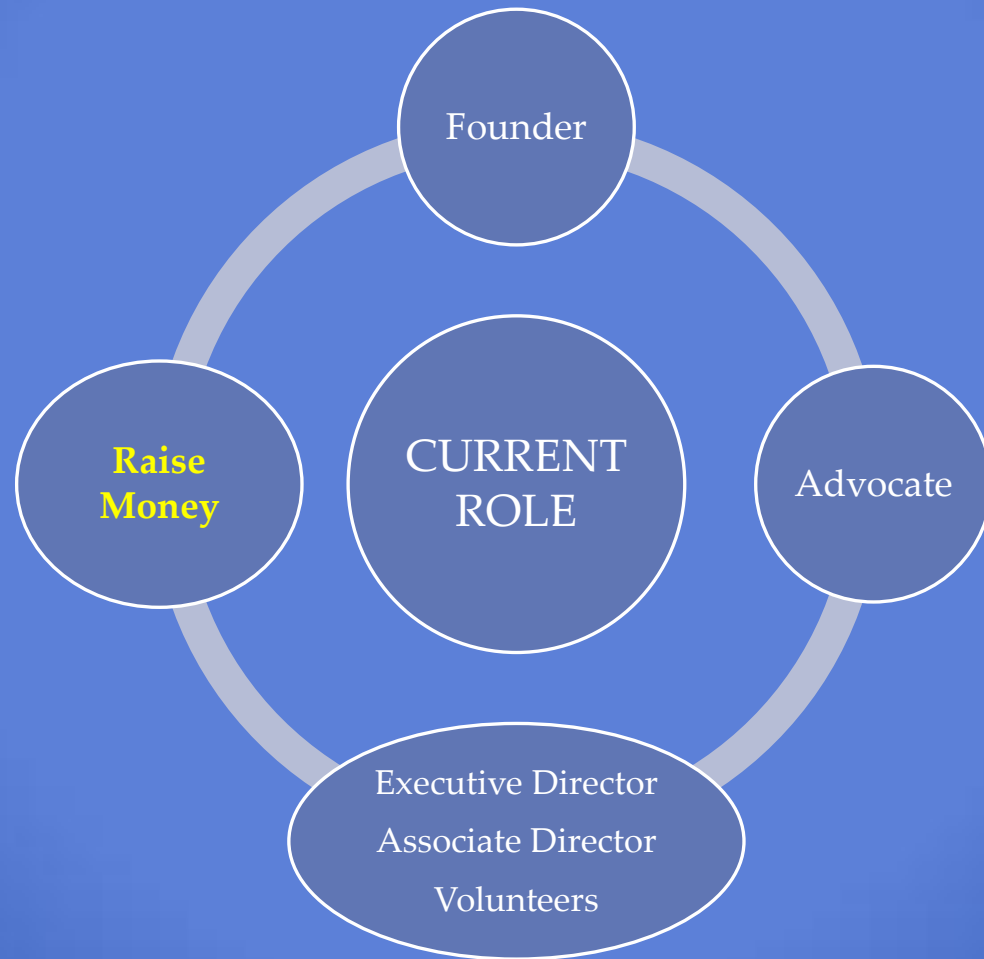
## Products

- Teens4Hire® prepares teens for the workplace and enables employers to find “ready to work” young adults.

## Services

- Here you'll find a jobs database, the best info, tips and resources on how to prepare for a job, look for a job, land a job or earn money.

# Current Role



What's New

12/29/2014

My First Job--Jerry Springer #13 and others

Successful people share their "first job" stories.

Learn how to... Bring Your A Game to Work

Once you achieve certification, you can use it to prove to employers that you are ready for the workplace.



Click to learn more.

The #1 job and recruitment site for U.S. teens!

Teens4Hire® is an online member community of teens (14 and older) seeking jobs; full-time, part-time, summer, seasonal, intern or volunteer, work experience; and/or other ways to earn money & the organizations that want to reach them.



Teens, Choose Your Membership

Visitor FREE

Allows you to view tips & resources

Take Me There

Premium

\$39 / one time fee

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## 7 Fundamental Values

Attitude

Attendance

Appearance

Ambition

Accountability

Acceptance

Appreciation





Courtesy Premium Registration  
Private Access Code



# Academic Exercise



# Questions

